

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. The claim amendments and cancellations should not be construed to be an acquiescence to any of the claim rejections. Rather, the amendments and cancellations to the claims are being made solely to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to further prosecute claims drawn to canceled or deleted subject matter in subsequent patent applications claiming the benefit of priority to the instant application (35 USC § 120).

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-11 are rejected as being anticipated by Yu (US 6,224,173). The Examiner contends that Yu discloses a tray comprising a non-tapered square cavity that is substantially symmetrically open-ended at each end. The Examiner further contends that Yu teaches all the other limitations of the pending claims. The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Solely to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation that the tray comprise a plurality of non-tapered cavities, as was originally claimed in dependent claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled as it is made redundant by the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 3-11 have been amended to maintain proper antecedent basis and/or to depend directly on claim 1, as opposed to claim 2. The amendments find explicit support in the application as filed. For example, Figures 2 and 3 of the instant application unambiguously depict a structure where the trays and ribs are constructed of a continuous piece of material. The Applicants respectfully assert that because Yu does not teach a tray with a plurality of cavities which are constructed of a continuous piece of material, Yu does not meet all the limitations of the pending claims.

Therefore, because the cited reference does not teach all the limitations of the claims, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Yu.

FEES

The Applicants believe that there are no required fees in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fee to our Deposit Account, **No. 06-1448** reference **RCX-022.01**.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, it is believed that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Agent would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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